

However, over the past several years, Russia's work on the components has fallen far behind schedule, causing significant delays and cost overruns which have spilled over into NASA's share of the work. Russia's Finance Ministry has repeatedly misled NASA and the American people, and we should not tolerate this continued foot-dragging. As I have said over the past six years, NASA's dependence on Russian participation in the space station will cripple other, more worthwhile U.S. space programs, and this will most likely continue to result in more assembly delays and cost overruns.

When the Administration approved the space station redesign in 1993, NASA promised the taxpayers that no more than \$2.1 billion would be spent each year for the program. At that time, it was estimated that Russia's inclusion as a partner would reduce costs by \$1.6 billion. Nevertheless, NASA has told us that the cap should be broken, despite Russia's repeated promises that the money and the critical hardware components like the Service Module would be delivered.

Far too many questions remain unanswered. NASA has yet to determine or release any cost figures for the program reflecting the likely scenario that Russia will drop out of the partnership, but continues to offer robust assurances that it will save money. While I support efforts to engage our former adversaries, and sharing our knowledge of important scientific issues, I do not believe it is prudent to perpetuate a back-door foreign aid project that makes Russia look more like an international welfare recipient than the major partner in the single largest construction project in the history of mankind.

While space station cost overruns to date are currently estimated at \$800 million, NASA has cut mission control, shuttle safety, and more deserving programs such as Mission to Planet Earth and space education grants. Already \$227 million has been diverted from space station science and \$200 million has been shifted from the space shuttle payload and utilization operations. This year, NASA has asked for the authority to shift an additional \$375 million.

Like our efforts aboard Mir, NASA has cannibalized the station's scientific research missions simply because all the funds are being consumed on construction. NASA has transferred a whopping \$462 million from its science funding to space station development in fiscal years 1996 through 1998. Case in point: NASA dropped the centrifuge, a critical research component, and now depends on negotiations with the Japanese Government to provide it.

Throwing more money at the space station is adding fuel to the fire. We should not continue to approve NASA's repeated request for supplemental funding. Rather, we should hold NASA and the Russian Government's feet to the fire. The American taxpayers deserve accountability and demand that the integrity of our space program be maintained. We should therefore end this program before it kills NASA and its mission.

Mr. Speaker, for several years, we have known the solution to the many problems associated with the space station. In fact, the House almost got it right in 1993, when my amendment to terminate space station funding lost by a single vote. I suggest that we allow NASA the time and resources to improve its

management structure, redefine its mission first, rather than move ahead with a mammoth, multi-billion dollar program whose costs will assuredly go over and beyond all reasonable budgetary expectations. All of the station's problems can be solved by simply canceling this wasteful, over-budget boondoggle, returning \$80 billion to the American taxpayers, and saving the life and health of the rest of the U.S. space program. I will continue to fight this program and strongly encourage my colleagues to closely monitor this program as cost overruns and schedule delays will most assuredly continue to cheat the scientific community of funding that could be better spent on more worthwhile space research endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE FOR MAJOR GENERAL CLAUDE W. REINKE

#### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge a brave soldier, strong leader, caring father and a very good friend. Major General Claude W. Reinke is the retiring Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, which is located in my District. I have grown very fond of General Reinke and would like to commend his leadership at the base.

General Reinke is a Texan by birth but has always been ready to move anywhere the Marines needed to send him, including a tour in Vietnam. The position of Commander General to a base like Pendleton is often like being the mayor of a city, as both require outstanding managerial skills. General Reinke has gone above and beyond the call of duty as Commander. His leadership has had a positive impact on both the Marines and the entire community.

Part of what makes General Reinke so special is how much he cares for his troops. Very few Commanding officers are more sensitive to the needs of their troops than Claude Reinke. General Reinke has become a champion for quality of life for our troops by emphasizing the need for improved base housing and training facilities for members of the Corps.

General Reinke has been decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is a proud husband and father of five. I might also add that he plays a very good game of golf! If he reacts to the challenges of work like he reacts to the challenges on the golf course, I think the men and women of Camp Pendleton have been in very able hands!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Claude my best and commend him on a job extremely well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING HOUSE  
BANKING COMMITTEE STAFF  
ROBERT AUERBACH AND  
STEFANIE MULLIN

#### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dedicated members of the House Banking Committee Minority staff who are leaving the Committee this week to pursue endeavors in higher education. The efforts of Robert Auerbach, the Democratic staff economist, and Stefanie Mullin, the Democratic press secretary, will be greatly missed by all members of the Committee.

Bob Auerbach is a first-rate financial economist with a keen understanding of money and banking, the payments system, and the Federal Reserve System. He has served the members of the House Banking Committee well in more than 10 years and two separate tours of duty on Capitol Hill. During this time, he has worked on a number of initiatives from the deregulation of interest rates to the promotion of openness at the Federal Reserve Board. I have personally worked with Bob on a number of issues pertaining to monetary policy and have found his knowledge, insight, and guidance to be invaluable.

Bob is leaving Capitol Hill for the ivory tower of academia. Starting this fall, he will be a Professor at the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas where he will be teaching courses on money and banking. He also has plans to write a book. Though I will miss Bob's wise counsel here in Washington, I know that our loss is most definitely the University of Texas' and his students' gain.

As press secretary for the Democrats, Stefanie Mullin has the often thankless job of reminding the world that there is another perspective on the Banking Committee. For the past five years, she has accomplished this with grace and dignity, always making sure that the views of the minority were heard by the world outside the Rayburn Building. Stefanie is also leaving us to return to school, but as a student. She will be attending Columbia University in a masters program in the prestigious School of Journalism. I wish her luck, and look forward to the day when I meet her again as a member of the news media.

#### COMMEMORATING "HEARTS AND STARS"

#### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize James M. McNeely's recent bronze sculpture "Hearts and Stars" that depicts the anguish, pain, honor and heroism displayed by young men and women while engaged in war.

Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, James M. McNeely, was drafted into the United States Army in May of 1969. He served as an infantryman with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division, in I Corps, CCU Law, Vietnam. Serving courageously, McNeely